

In ERISA cases, the general rule is that review is limited to the administrative record created during the decision-making process. LaSalle v. Mercantile Bancorporation, Inc. Long Term Disability Plan, 498 F.3d 805, 811 (8th Cir. 2007). Defendants cite to Jones v. ReliaStar Life Ins. Co., 615 F.3d 941, 945 (8th Cir. 2010), in which the Eighth Circuit upheld the district court's refusal to permit discovery where the defendant admitted it was both the insurer and administrator of the

plan. Since the conflict was conceded, the Eighth Circuit found discovery unnecessary to establish the existence of the conflict, and the Eighth Circuit determined that the administrative record was sufficient to fairly evaluate the defendant's decision. Id.

Here, Defendants have conceded the existence of a conflict. Under the Eighth Circuit's analysis in Jones, therefore, discovery is unnecessary. Plaintiff has presented no evidence to show why Jones should not govern the Court's decision in this case. Furthermore, Plaintiff has not shown why the wide-ranging discovery sought from Defendants is appropriate in this case.

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Defendants' Motion to Limit Discovery to the Administrative Record (ECF No. 58) is **GRANTED**.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 2012.

/s/Jean C. Hamilton  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE